SKUA
Rescue Sauvetage
Coast Guard
Garde côtière
Canada

CCGC SKUA

As a local citizen welcomed the vessel announcing, "The Coast Guard has given new life to the old wharf. Dozens of vessels now visit this dock on a regular basis," the new SKUA made her official entrance to Ganges Harbour, Salt Spring Island, B.C. The SKUA, and her sister-ships OSPREY and MALLARD, entered Western Region service in 1986. These Type 100 vessels are built for search and rescue operations in sheltered waters and are based on a very successful design shared with the US Coast Guard. Fast and highly maneuverable, they will run for 12 hours at maximum speed and full load.

The CG Ganges station has been in operation since 1979, and had been housed in a trailer until October 1986 when a new building was officially opened. O.I.C. Frank Wilkins, who has been with the Coast Guard for over 20 years, has been at Ganges since the station was established and, before joining the Coast Guard, served aboard the former SKUA/MOORHEN with the RCAF.

SKUA replaces the MOORHEN which was built in 1952 for the US Coast Guard, then sold to the RCAF where she was first named SKUA. She was eventually turned over to the CCG at Kitsilano where she was used for SAR work from 1964 to 1984 under the name MOORHEN before moving to Ganges.

The MOORHEN/SKUA is part of British Columbia's history and is remembered by many mariners. She probably responded to more rescue calls than any other vessel in Canada. MOORHEN, her sister-ship MALLARD and the old ALBATROSS and NIMPKISH were the main rescue vessels in the populated areas of the West Coast during the 1950's.

MALLARD and MOORHEN proved themselves in all types of weather. They lost a few windows in the process, but no lives. They towed boats, barges, aircraft, log booms, even larger cutters, and they have acted as icebreakers. They also saved a lot of lives!

The new SKUA is equipped with a standard electronic package, a firefighting system, and a full line of search and rescue equipment. At least one crew member is a rescue specialist, with training in advanced first aid, diving, firefighting and rescue techniques.

The Ganges station has operated on the paging system since its establishment eight years ago, so the three-person crew are responsible for finding their own accommodation ashore.

After 35 years of government service, CCGC MOORHEN was turned over this year to North Vancouver for use as a firefighting training aid. The new CCGC SKUA and her crew proudly carry on her SAR role, responding to an average of 170 calls a year.

Particulars

Type 100
Small search & rescue utility craft

Built:	**1986**
Length:	**12.4 metres**
Breadth:	**4.12 metres**
Draft:	**1.24 metres**
Displacement:	**33,000 lbs.**
Propulsion:	**2 Mitsubishi S6B diesels**
Speed (max.):	**26 knots**
Crew:	**3**